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LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 19, 1972

2:00 o'clock p.m.

J. G. JONES, Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana



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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 1972, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, J. G. Jones, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

J. G. JONES, Chairman
H. C. WRIGHT, Vice-Chairman
J. B. ANGELLE, Director
H. C. LUTTRELL
J. THOMPSON

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A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of October 17 and November 2, 1972. (4)

TED O'NEIL

2. Extend the experimental program of dressing and dyeing nutria pelts. (4)

JOE HERRING

3. Acceptance of State Land Office land (221 (8)



acres) to be included in Loggy Bayou
Wildlife Management Area.

4. Accept Wildlife Economic Values as proposed (10)
by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ALLAN ENSMINGER

5. Request from Texas Gulf Sulphur for right of (13)
way on Point au Chein Game Management
Area.

KENNETH SMITH

6. Commercial fishing - Lake Verret. (15)

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Land acquisition bordering Salvador Wildlife (18)
Management Area.
8. Special meeting to make onsite inspection of (23)
the Grand Isle and Vicinity Hurricane
protection project.
9. Special meeting in Baton Rouge for Dr. George (23)
Lowrey to make presentation to Commission
members on Mammal book.
10. Set date for Commission review and approval of (23)
budget requests for 1973-74.
11. Discuss need for corrective legislation on (24)
Marsh Island fund.



12. Retirement policy.

(28)

13. Cameron-Creole Watershed Project.

(31)

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CHAIRMAN JONES: The meeting will come to order. Mr. Autin is in town and his sister-in-law is very ill and he may have gone to the hospital. He may come in later, though.

The first item of business is the approval of minutes of October 17 and November 2, 1972.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Mr. O'Neil.

MR. TED O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission, as you will remember last year the fur dressers of America took some offense to the article we had in our magazine, saying that they couldn't dress the nutria, were unable to, and we had to send all of our nutria pelts to Europe,



to Italy and West Germany, for dressing, and it caused a considerable lag in the dealers getting their money back or whoever sent over there. It was about six months to a year's lag in knowing what they had.

When I was in New York the local dressers said they have had probably millions of pelts they have experimented with and that they could do as well as they can, if we would furnish a few pelts. We contacted the Refuge Division and they agreed to take out of their share, the trappers' share, on their ten percent, 300 pelts a year and we would pass them out to the three American dressers or anyone else who wished to dress fur and practice on this experiment.

Now they have sent back some of the finished products, the products of their experiments, and I think some of them are fairly salable and some of them are nearly as good as the Europeans but not as good as the best in Europe, because all that we ever see is the very finest that comes out of Europe, out of Milarno, Italy, and out of West Germany. We don't see everything that is not real



good out of Europe, but here we are looking at what they, our three American dressers, have done.

Now they would like to continue another season on this and I think they should. I am recommending that we go along again and collect 300 pelts in the refuges and give them another shot at it and they would like to go along.

MR. THOMPSON: Ted, let me ask you something. We are going to give them 300 more pelts. You are satisfied with the accounting for the pelts? In other words, that the pelts that we gave them in the past are being used for this purpose and you have a way of accounting for that,

MR. O'NEIL: Yes, that's right.

MR. THOMPSON: I am not saying that they would take them out and sell them or anything, but I mean so we won't have any question about that.

MR. O'NEIL: Well, I am not exactly satisfied in a way because one outfit sent back all of their 100 pelts, dressed, and we didn't intend that. We only wanted about ten samples for our displays and for our own use in our school displays, but one outfit sent them all back, and I am getting an



office full of furs and the first thing you know somebody is going to say we are going to steal them or something, but that's beside the point.

THE CHAIRMAN: As I understand, the purpose is not that they are tanning them for us and returning every skin, but we are giving them the skins to encourage them to try to learn how to tan them. Is that correct?

MR. O'NEIL: That's true, and to get a pelt salable to the American manufacturers who are now going into nutria partly because they were forced into it because it is one of the furs that I think we can keep a steady flow of the raw product getting into the fur trade. The ecologists have hurt us some on some of the other furs, on the spotted furs, but I believe we are all right on the nutria and muskrat and the raccoon.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell.



Is there any further discussion?

(No response)

If not, so ordered.

MR. O'NEIL: If anyone would like to examine the furs --

THE CHAIRMAN: Ted, could you send some of those to the Fur and Wildlife Festival so they can display them as being Louisiana-tanned nutria.

MR. O'NEIL: I sure can.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item I have on the agenda is the Louisiana State Land Office has agreed to lease approximately 222 acres of their land to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for a period of 35 years for an addition to the Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management Area. One stipulation of this is that we leave a narrow strip of their land open for ingress and egress purposes for a private individual who owns land in there.

I recommend at this time that we go ahead and accept this land for an addition to our Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management Area.



THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any other discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, personnel of the Game Division has met with personnel of the State Land Office for the purpose of leasing State Land Office land joining the Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this land owned by the State Land Office consists of some 222 acres, and

WHEREAS, the State Land Office is leasing this land to the Louisiana



Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for a period of 35 years at no cost, and

WHEREAS, a narrow strip in Section 17 has been reserved for a private owner in the center of the Wildlife Management Area to water his cattle in Loggy Bayou,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission accept these leases as an addition of approximately 222 acres to the Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management Area.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item, every five years the U. S. Department of Interior makes a national survey of hunting and fishing for economic purposes. They publish a book and this is it (indicating) each five years on this, with all the values pertaining to urban areas, rural areas, the number of women who hunt, the number of men, how much is spent, and various things like this.

I would like to recommend to the Commission at this time that we accept this economic



survey so that we can use the values in it for the environmental impact statements that we have to make and also some of the statements to the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Corps of Engineers and other governmental and private organizations. This will be combined with the species values that the Commission did accept several months back. We will use the two together.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department
of the Interior makes a national survey
of fishing and hunting each year; and



WHEREAS, personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission quote information from these surveys in environmental impact statements, statements to the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Corps of Engineers, and other governmental and private organizations, and

WHEREAS, these surveys give the economic values of hunting and fishing and the numbers of women and men who participate in these sports as well as locations they are from, and

WHEREAS, such values are needed at present, and until such time as the Southeastern Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners' economic survey is completed,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission accept the U. S. Department of Interior's 1970 National Survey of Fishing and Hunting, along with game and fish



species values as previously set by the Commission and that these values be used in preparing economic values for statements by personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Allan.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Commission, we have received a request from Texas Gulf Sulphur Company of Houston, Texas, seeking permission to install a six-inch natural gas pipeline across a portion of our Point au Chien Wildlife Management Area in Lafourche Parish. This line will extend from an existing Texaco pipeline that crosses our property over to their property, where they have an extensive sulphur mine. I am sure that if we include all of the necessary safeguards that this pipeline can be installed without doing any appreciable damage to our Wildlife Management Area. Therefore, I would like to recommend that this permit be granted to Texas Gulf Sulphur,



with the stipulation that the right of way will cease to exist at such time as they cease to use the line.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has
received written application from the
Texas Gulf Sulphur Company of Houston,
Texas to install a six-inch natural
gas pipeline across a portion of the
Point au Chien Wildlife Management
Area in Lafourche Parish, and



WHEREAS, this request has been examined by personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that this work can be approved provided appropriate safeguards are incorporated in the right of way agreement, and

WHEREAS, Texas Gulf Sulphur Company has agreed to pay the standard right of way fee for a 25-foot wide right of way,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to the Texas Gulf Sulphur Company to install a six-inch natural gas pipeline across a portion of the Point au Chien Wildlife Management Area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Kenneth.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, for the past number of years Lake Verret has been closed to year-round commercial fishing but in recent years the Commission has opened this lake to fishing by permit



from January 1 through March 31. We have worked with the Police Jury in Assumption Parish and have arrived at these recommendations that would require the permit, that all fishermen with legal commercial fishing licenses may fish, and that they use legal netting.

We would like to recommend again that this lake be opened to commercial fishing from January 1, 1973 through March 31, 1973.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, past fish population
surveys have indicated a high rough



fish population in Lake Verret, and

WHEREAS, the removal of the rough fish will provide a source of income to commercial fishermen as well as furnish growing space for game fish, and

WHEREAS, the Assumption Parish Police Jury has requested Lake Verret be opened to net fishing from January 1, 1973 through March 31, 1973,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Lake Verret be opened to net fishing during the above period provided the following provisions are adhered to:

1. A permit will be required of each fisherman.
2. The Lake will be opened to all fishermen with legal commercial fishing licenses.
3. It will be open to the use of all legal nets.
4. Fishermen remove all legal commercial and rough fish



that are caught.

THE CHAIRMAN: Under "Other Business," land acquisition bordering Salvador Wildlife Management Area. Burt.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, a large land corporation here in Louisiana has contacted me with the possibility of offering a large tract of land contiguous with one of our management areas at present, and I would like to know if the Commission would like for me to pursue this matter with this corporation and report back to the Commission.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wright, that we proceed with the negotiations for the purchase. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

The next item involves an on-site inspection of the Grand Isle and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project.



MR. NORMAN LEGENDRE: My name is Norman Legendre and I appeared before you at the last meeting and there were some things that I had to do to satisfy you, and one of the things was maps, which I gave to Mr. Allan Ensminger, and another thing was a letter to the Director, which I have sent, with reference to this right of way. Another thing that you asked about is the environmental impact study, had one been made or what were our intentions. One has been made by the Louisiana Department of Public Works and from my information it has satisfied all the local, state and federal criteria.

The next thing would be that the alignment be moved to the edge of the property that you own in the Point au Chien Game Management Area and the U. S. Corps of Engineers has agreed to move this right along the line as long as there is no engineering problem, which I am sure it does not make any difference to them where it passes, if it is a few feet in your property or right near the property line, which can be moved, and they have agreed.



Another thing we have gotten, and I just talked to our engineer, was to fly the Director and all of the Commissioners, anybody that wants to attend, to fly over the area involved, the Petroleum Helicopters has afforded us a ship that can take one or two men that would want to go. Of course, this would be at Mark Officio's office in Galliano.

Of course, I don't know what we need here, but whatever we need, I would like to do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: No. 1, have you furnished to us a copy of your environmental impact statement? We would like to have a copy of it.

MR. LEGENDRE: I am sure that one can be made available, because it has been done by the Louisiana Department of Public Works.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, in receiving Mr. Legendre's letter, telling me about the environmental impact statement being made by the Department of Public Works, he did not include an environmental impact study so our people could take a look at it. However, immediately I did write to Public Works and request that they forward us a copy of it.



and as of now I have not yet received this environmental impact statement from Public Works. If you have a copy to make available to us immediately, we would like to have one.

MR. LEGENDRE: I don't have one but the Executive Secretary, Mr. Bob Guidry, has informed me that one has been made so I am sure that he must have this information available, so I am sure that if we need to, we can get you one.

MR. ANGELLE: I think it is most important that you get it over here as soon as you possibly can, maybe even hand carry it.

MR. LEGENDRE: If I have got to go to Baton Rouge and come right back, I am going to do that.

MR. ANGELLE: We need it before we go down there and make any type of onsite inspection.

THE CHAIRMAN: In connection with that, the Commission is contemplating maybe holding our next meeting in January in Houma, and if maybe we can arrange it, in conjunction with that, we can conduct the onsite inspection. It is tentative and Mr. Angelle will get in touch with you.



MR. LEGENDRE: I had a commitment from our engineer. He would be available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Of course, this is supposed to have been done last week but he has been ill and unable to complete his plans. Then again, if there is anything that could be done Thursday or Friday, if you want to do it, we could fly you out of here.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are talking about in January now, about the third or fourth week in January. The fourth Monday and Tuesday in January, one of those two days.

MR. LEGENDRE: The fourth --

THE CHAIRMAN: Monday and Tuesday of January, and preferably Monday, I would think. Monday afternoon, maybe about four o'clock, something like that. Three or four o'clock.

MR. LEGENDRE: Mighty fine. We will try to arrange it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is all tentative now. You work it out with Mr. Angelle and he will keep in touch. And the other thing, you are going to get for us immediately the environmental impact



statement.

MR. LEGENDRE: I am going to make it my business. I thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. All right, No. 9 is a special meeting in Baton Rouge for Dr. George Lowery to make presentation to the Commission members on his mammal book.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I think yesterday we discussed the possibility of meeting there on the 12th day of January. That is a Friday. And we could also take up the review of the budget at the same meeting because we have to do that by the 15th of January, anyhow.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Items Nos. 9 and 10.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, I think we are running into a conflict here with the Fur Festival being held the weekend of the 12th, which is the same day we had picked yesterday. Now I don't know how many of the Commission expect to attend the Fur Festival. I know Mr. O'Neil may be tied up with it and not be able to attend this



meeting we set up with Dr. Lowrey, so I think we may have a little conflict in date.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think, though, that when they are going to want you there, Burt, is Saturday and not Friday, see, so if that is the date, it wouldn't conflict.

MR. ANGELLE: I was just informed it is the weekend of the 12th, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

THE CHAIRMAN: So we could go ahead and have this, if it is all right. This will be Friday morning.

MR. WRIGHT: All day Friday.

THE CHAIRMAN: All day Friday, so Saturday you can go to the Fur Festival. Is that all right with everybody then? We won't take any action on that.

All right, No. 11. Discuss need for corrective legislation on Marsh Island fund. Dick.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, during the 1971 Legislature, a bill was passed that had to do with setting up a five million dollar trust fund for Marsh Island, which



also provided that the money in the trust fund would be invested with the Refuge to be operated in perpetuity from the revenue from the investment. However, that statute did not specify that the interest money from the investment would go back into the Marsh Island fund, so there is a need for the introduction of another bill at the 1973 session of the Legislature, which would specify that the revenue from the investment would go back into the Marsh Island fund.

We would like to recommend at this time that the Commission endorse and support the introduction and passage of such a bill. I think we are all aware of the fact that mineral operations have ceased on Marsh Island and we operate our minerals out there jointly with the Russell Sage Foundation and they have said that they would permit no additional mineral operations on the Refuge until such time as this legislation is passed. We have probably lost something on the order of a million dollars during this interim period, waiting for these matters to be cleared up, so it is important that we get this bill introduced and



passed at the '73 session of the Legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, Act 62 of the 1971
regular session of the Legislature
provided for the eventual creation
of a \$5 million trust fund under which
the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge in
Iberia Parish could be operated and
managed in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, said Act specified
that the money in the trust fund would
be invested in order to produce annual



revenue; and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the legislation for the revenue from the investments to accrue to the Marsh Island Fund so that it could be used to finance wildlife management operations on Marsh Island; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional legislation which will explicitly state and require that the investment income will accrue to the Marsh Island Fund; and

WHEREAS, mineral operations on the Refuge will not be resumed until such time that additional legislation is enacted that will clearly specify this;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby endorse and support the enactment of a Bill in the 1973 regular session of the Legislature that would specify



and require that any revenue accruing from investment of money in the Marsh Island Trust Fund would be returned to the Marsh Island account.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick. No. 12, retirement policy, Burt.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, as I appreciated heretofore, the Commission's policy was to allow employees reaching the mandatory age of retirement, which is 65, to retire at the end of the calendar year following their birthday. I have a resolution prepared here and hopefully we can get it adopted, and it will read that all employees of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission shall mandatorily retire upon reaching age 65, said retirement to be effective on the first calendar day of the month following the employee's 65th birthday, which would amount to anybody reaching mandatory retirement in February, then his retirement would start, would be effective on the last day of the month or the first day of the month following, instead of carrying these employees from January, February, March, April, all the way through to the



end of the calendar year, making mandatory retirement on the first day following a man's birthday in that calendar year.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, at the present time the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has a retirement policy that all Commission personnel retire on December 31 in the year in which they attain age 65, which policy was established because the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System computed retirement benefits on



the average earned compensation for the three highest consecutive calendar years of employment; and

WHEREAS, by Louisiana Act 135, 1972, the Legislature amended LSA-R.S. 42:541 through 657, providing that the average earned compensation for the purposes of retirement benefit payments shall be computed on the earnings of the highest 36 consecutive months of employment, which would permit a beneficial change in the Commission's policy, by requiring an employee upon reaching his 65th birthday to mandatorily retire on the first day of the calendar month following the attainment of age 65;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the established retirement policy of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be, and it is hereby amended as follows:

"All employees of the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission



shall mandatorily retire upon reaching age 65, said retirement to be effective on the first calendar day of the month following the employee's 65th birthday.

"This policy change shall become effective January 1, 1973."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of this Commission be, and he is directed to notify in writing all employees of this policy change and that he also notify in writing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System of the adoption of this policy change.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there is a hearing tomorrow of the Corps of Engineers on the Cameron-Creole watershed and that the Commission needs to look at this thing and make some kind of recommendation. I think Mr. Yancey has a statement that the Commission is looking at and I think at this time, if it is all right, we would like to hear from him.



MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the U. S. Corps of Engineers is holding a public hearing in Cameron tomorrow to consider the issuance of a permit for the establishment of the Cameron-Creole Watershed Project and certainly the Commission has been requested to formulate a position in connection with the issuance of that permit and so state its position at tomorrow's meeting.

This proposed position statement is some four pages in length and I am sure you don't want to listen to all of it, but I will summarize in general what it says.

The Cameron-Creole Watershed Project, of course, has been under consideration for a number of years, and planning started probably some seven or eight years ago. Of course, this project is to be financed by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and local interests will then take over maintenance and so forth. During 1970 and 1971 we were requested by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to evaluate this watershed project plan along with some eighteen other watershed projects that they



had under consideration in the state and give them information as to the effect that we felt each one of these projects would have on fish and wildlife resources in the areas involved.

At considerable time and expense on the part of the Commission, each of these projects was evaluated. At that time it was found that the Cameron-Creole Watershed Project as planned would have adverse effects on fish and wildlife in the area. When this information was conveyed back to the local people in the Soil Conservation Service, they, of course, then wanted to hold consultations with our technical people and these were held both in the field and in the office and then they agreed to modify the work plan to incorporate some additional features to overcome the objections that the Commission had in connection with that project.

Basically the objection was that the project, as originally planned, would, we felt, bring about an excessive drainage of the marsh land affected, but they agreed to install six weir structures on the private lands adjoining Calcasieu Lake. They also agreed to install major water



control structures on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge which, of course, is under the control of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and that the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife would have complete control over the operation of those structures. I think we can all agree that they will operate water levels with these structures in the best interests of fish and wildlife.

Basically, our objections were overcome when they agreed to these modifications, which I believe are going to bring about an additional \$400,000.00 in cost to that project, but we feel certainly that that additional cost is justified because that is probably one of the most important fish and wildlife areas on the entire continent, particularly from the standpoint of migratory waterfowl.

Basically this position statement would stipulate that the Commission has no objection to the issuance of the permit, as requested by the Cameron Parish Gravity District No. 3. It also states that it is felt that the project would benefit the freshwater marshes enclosed by the levees.



and water control structures. I think we are all aware of the fact that at the time the Calcasieu River ship channel was dredged from the Gulf of Mexico up to Lake Charles, this introduced tremendous volumes of salt water into the marshes on the east side of Calcasieu Lake, and when the salt water got into these fresh marshes, it resulted in a dowel for the fresh marsh vegetation. When these levees and water control structures are introduced, or installed, rather, this will tend to stabilize salinities. It will reduce the amount of tidal action between Calcasieu Lake and the affected marshes, and it will also hold water in the ponds and bayous during periods of low tide in Calcasieu Lake.

Generally speaking, the project as designed and planned, should offset the damages, certainly to a great extent, that have resulted from the widening and deepening of the Calcasieu River ship channel. Basically, the close of this statement is that the Commission would offer no objection to the issuance of that permit by the Corps of Engineers.



MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I so move that this statement be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wright. Is there a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the United States Corps of Engineers is holding a public hearing in Cameron on December 20, 1972, for the purpose of considering the issuance of a permit in connection with the creation of the Cameron-Creole Watershed Project; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has been requested to state its position regarding the issuance of this permit;



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby approve
the presentation of the following state-
ment at the Corps of Engineers' hearing
to be held on December 20, 1972:

The Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission appreciates the
opportunity to appear at this public
hearing and to comment on the Cameron-
Creole Watershed Project and on the
Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage Dis-
trict No. 3 request for permits under
which construction of this project can
begin.

This Agency has long appreci-
ated the productivity of Calcasieu Lake
and the marsh ecosystem that helps sup-
port this lake. We have been aware of
the value of these marshes for fur
bearers, waterfowl and various other
forms of native and migrant wildlife.

As the agency of state government



with the constitutionally delegated responsibility for Louisiana's fish and wildlife resources, we have regretfully seen man-made changes affect the productivity of our natural systems. Many of these changes were brought about because decision-makers had too little information on the adverse effects of various projects or because the interests to benefit from project implementation pressured these decision-makers to ignore the available information. We have witnessed project after project constructed without proper concern for the post-project damages to our fish and wildlife resources. Indeed most of our planning has been to solve some readily identifiable problem that plagued us. We are not trying to make the point that all past water management projects have been environmentally disastrous. We do, however, contend that the changes in natural systems have



been largely ignored.

The Cameron-Creole Watershed Project needs have been reported to be largely caused by the altered salinities in adjacent Calcasieu Lake resulting from the increased widening and deepening of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel. This agency readily recognizes that adverse changes have occurred and are occurring within the project area. Our technical staff assures us that a considerable decrease in the volume or concentration of salt water entering these marshes would be beneficial so far as waterfowl, furbearers and other native and migratory wildlife habitat is concerned. Staff members have met with project planners many times during the several years since this project was authorized for planning.

In 1971 the Soil Conservation Service issued a directive from their Washington, D. C. office known as



Watershed Memorandum 108. This memo directed state conservationists to review certain watershed projects within their states. Here in Louisiana we were asked by the Soil Conservation Service to assist their personnel in identifying fish and wildlife resource losses and in seeking ways to reduce, eliminate or mitigate these damages. As a result of this request, our personnel made a thorough study of 19 watershed projects as requested. They examined existing project work plans and estimated the losses anticipated from implementation of these projects as planned and written at that time.

In the case of the Cameron-Creole project, it was felt that the dewatering effect of the levee system as originally planned would, in the long run, cause losses to marsh wildlife habitat greatly in excess of the gains to be realized from solving the



problem of salt water intrusion. You will recall that the original plans contemplated a levee system along the east banks of Calcasieu Lake resulting in the closure of certain bayous. During this 1971 project review, a considerable amount of recently collected data on the marine life productivity of the marshes of the project area was available for use. Our personnel estimated that the monetary value of the losses to furbearers, wildlife and sport and commercial fishing was in excess of one million dollars annually.

As soon as our findings were transmitted to the Soil Conservation Service, discussions were begun on ways to reduce, eliminate or mitigate these losses. Our biologists worked with the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife on planning measures that would protect the fish and wildlife resources of



the area while, at the same time, allowing the project sponsors to largely attain their objectives.

As a result of these inter-agency conferences, the Soil Conservation Service and the sponsors agreed to structural measures not contained in the original work plan. These modifications included the construction of low level weirs in those bayous that were to be closed. Additionally, on lands of Miami Corporation, a weir is to be constructed to open an additional 10,000 acres to water flow from Calcasieu Lake. Contingent on these proposed changes in the work plans for the project and upon an acceptable procedure for the operation of the water control structures, this agency on June 28, 1971 wrote the state conservationist concurring in the June 25, 1971 letter from the Regional Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in which the reclassification of the



project (under the Memo 108 classification) was left to the judgment of the state conservationist, permitting the forward movement of the project.

These recommendations for a weir system were based upon our vast experience in the use of these structures. Weirs reduce salinity variations, provide for increased water stability behind the structure and at the same time reduce, but not eliminate the ebb and flow of the tides to flow over the weir. This type of management procedure permits the growth of waterfowl and furbearing animal food and yet continues the area behind the weir as a nursery ground for fisheries. Weirs have been extensively used in south Louisiana as a management tool. A few examples are: Marsh Island Refuge, State Wildlife Refuge, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Audubon's Paul J. Raney Refuge, Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife Management Area, Biloxi and Wisner



Game Management Areas and on private lands of Miami Corporation, LaTerre Land Company, with LLE having 185,000 acres behind weirs. Our experience has convinced us that these weirs are an important management tool.

During the entire planning of this project we have attempted to use our skills to provide technical advice. This agency has supplied the best available information at the request of the planners, the sponsors and the public. Indeed it was largely the recognition of project anticipated damages that we called attention to that prompted sponsors and the Soil Conservation Service to add structural measures costing approximately \$400,000.00. By the proper operation of these water control structures as now planned, we conclude that distinct advantages to wildlife will be reaped from this project. Control of the principle



water control structures adjacent to Calcasieu Lake will be in the hands of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and certainly everyone has confidence in the fact that the Bureau will utilize these structures to manage water levels in the best interest of all forms of marsh wildlife..

A more recent event that has affected the project was the request by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Bureau of Commerce that a three-year preconstruction study be undertaken to provide information to fill some of the gaps in the presently available knowledge regarding the operation and maintenance of such an ecosystem. The Soil Conservation Service has agreed that such a study would provide useful information and has agreed to fund such a study to begin when the first construction contract is let. We are prepared to continue our research and assistance as



this project continues.

This has been a review of the Cameron-Creole Project experiences of this agency. In accordance with the notice furnished by the District Engineer we have no objection to the issuance of the permit requested. With the proper use of the management plan, this project should result in the saving of in excess of 100,000 acres of fresh water marshland habitat.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further business to come before the meeting?

MR. ANGELLE: You might ask the Division Chiefs if they have anything.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do any of the Chiefs have anything you want to bring up?

MR. THOMPSON: I have something I would like to bring up. I would like to say Merry Christmas to all and I move we adjourn.

MR. WRIGHT: Second the motion.

. . . Thereupon, at 2:30 o'clock p.m., the meeting was adjourned. . . .

